



DREW

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Korn Gallery
Dorothy Young Center for the Arts
Drew University
Madison, NJ 07940

Elizabeth Korn

Elizabeth Korn and Her Times

Curators: Kether Tomkins, Alexa Zbieranowski, Anthony Rossi
and Professor of Art History, Emerita, Sara Henry

May 29 - June 18, 2015

Opening Reception:

May 29, 4 - 6PM

Opening Remarks by Professor of English, Emeritus, John Warner
Gallery Talk by Professor of Art History, Emerita, Sara Henry

Gallery Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 12:30-4PM

Selected weekends and by appointment

For more information please call 973.408.3758

www.drew.edu/korngallery



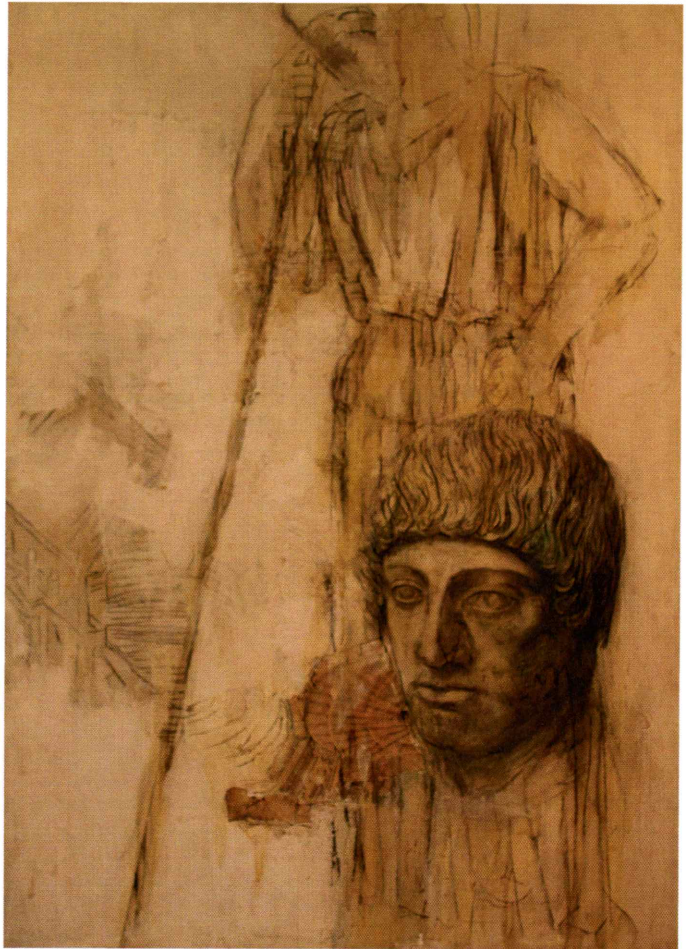
Born in 1897 in Breslau, then Germany, Elizabeth P. Korn studied at the National Academy of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Breslau, with subsequent studies at the Berlin Museum of Fine and Applied Arts, then in Rome, Madrid and New York City, where she took classes at Columbia University, the Institute of Fine Art, the New School and the Art Students League. In 1939, she and her eminent scientist husband, Arthur Korn, and their 17-year-old son fled Nazi Germany because of their Jewish heritage, first attending a scientific conference in Norway, then making their way to the United States, nearly penniless, where they settled in Jersey City, New Jersey, close to Arthur's new position at Stevens Institute of Technology. Elizabeth worked as an illustrator of children's books and as a portrait artist, mostly of scientists. In 1946, after her husband's death, Elizabeth became the founding professor of the Drew art department, teaching both art history and studio art as a one-person department up until her last year of teaching, with her retirement in 1966. She was a cultured, effective and caring teacher. Through her personal charisma and support, several of her students went on to distinguished art careers. During her time at Drew and after her retirement, Elizabeth painted in a number of daring modalities—abstract, expressionist, then Neo-Dada reliefs with classical motifs, all of which you can see in this exhibition.

Sara Lynn Henry

Professor Emerita of Art History
Drew University

In our exhibition of Elizabeth Korn's work, the figure (and especially the female body) is an important element that conveys a personal conflict and struggle about identity. As you move throughout the space, you can see a progression from earlier studies to later mixed media collages featuring Greek figures. For Korn, these figures are a tool that gives the audience an emotion to experience, while referencing various artist movements that Korn would have experienced throughout her career.

—Kether Tomkins C'15



In Elizabeth Korn's works, her abstracted feminine figures are expressive and conceptual, rather than naturalistic. One such example is Korn's painting of a female torso where the womanly curves of an undulated female form are replaced with abstracted angular brush strokes. Korn's most memorable contribution to the art world is, perhaps, her classical Greek collage period that stems from movements like pop art. Her mixed media pieces are sculptural in their composition. She combined collages and textural wooden frames that are hinged and protruding almost like a medieval diptych. Her use of holographic eyes on top of images of Greek sculptures adds a texture and an unsettling alertness to the works. Her collages express a range of troubled and peaceful bodies, which we estimate denotes periods of conflict and ease in her personal life.—Alexa Zbieranowski C'17

Show to honor gallery's namesake

TAYLOR TRACY
Student Life & Arts Editor

From Baldwin to Riker to Ehinger, the Forest is full of memories of past influential Drewids through the names of buildings and other spaces. The Korn Gallery, the art exhibition space in the DoYo, is no exception.

On May 29, an exhibit will open honoring Elizabeth Korn and the different styles of artwork she made before, during and after her time at Drew. Regarding the mission behind the show, Gabriele Hiltl-Cohen said "The exhibit is there to celebrate the founder of the art department and the namesake of the Korn Gallery. It is trying to acknowledge the past and celebrate it and learn from it." She added "We also want to honor her as an artist, professor, mentor and friend."

Alexa Zbieranowksi ('17) is one of three students who have been actively involved with preparing materials for and curating the exhibit. Describing her duties, she noted, "It's been a lot of business work. I learned just how much work goes into curating a show because it's



COURTESY OF **GABRIELE HILTL-COHEN**

One of Elizabeth Korn's paintings, several of which depict Greco-Roman sculptures and the female form.

half art history and half arts administration."

Explaining a poignant moment of her work,

Zbieranowski explained, "The most memorable part is definitely the trip we took to acquire the paintings. We

traveled to Massachusetts to the home of Professor Emeritus of English John Warner and joined him for lunch." She added "He shared some memories about Korn as a friend and a professional. He was also able to explain some of the inspiration for her works, and provide helpful biographical information."

Part of her work has also been sending out requests to alumni who knew Korn for information on how she impacted them personally. About this, Zbieranowski said, "We have received a few responses that were really heart-warming. One art history alumnus described the ways that she changed his life. Experiences like that help us put all the pieces together and remind us why we're doing the project."

About the responses they've received so far, Hiltl-Cohen said, "Some elaborate on how she influenced them and changed lives. We will read some of the responses during the opening."

The exhibit will be on display until June 24. Warner and Professor Emerita of art history Sarah Henry will give talks on the work in the show.